

RESTRICTION

The Restriction Requirement request election of claims for further prosecution on the merits from the following groups:

- Group I: claims 1-8 and claims 18-19 drawn to a transparent oxide film;
- Group II: claims 9-16 drawn to a transparent oxide film;
- Group III: claim 17 drawn to a method; and
- Group IV: claims 20-27 drawn to a solar cell.

In response, Group I is provisionally elected for further prosecution on the merits, however, such election is made with **traverse** with respect to the separation of claims 9-16 from this group.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-16 should properly be considered with those of Group I since the claims are directed to similar subject matter, a transparent oxide film comprising titanium having a resistivity of up to 5.7×10^{-4} Ω cm. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 9 can conceivably contain all of the elements of independent claim 1, and the claims are not necessarily mutually exclusive as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that search of the requisite art for these two groups does not present a significant burden on the Examiner.

For at least these reasons it is requested that Claims 1-19 be considered for further prosecution on the merits.

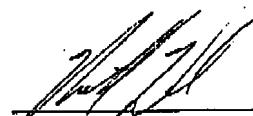
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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